

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4933

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PEPP, XA, RH, BE

SUBJECT: SITHOLE IN BRUSSELS COMMENTS ON PLAN FOR
RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 2734

1. SUMMARY. AT FEBRUARY 16 BRUSSELS PRESS CONFERENCE,
REVEREND SITHOLE COMMENTS ON FEBRUARY 15 AGREEMENT
BETWEEN RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AND INTERNALLY BASED
MODERATE BLACK LEADERS. SITHOLE TO MEET WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER SIMONET FEBRUARY 17 AND FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN
IN LONDON FEBRUARY 20. FOLLOWING ARE KEY POINTS OF PRESS
CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

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2. SITHOLE TOLD PRESS THAT FEBRUARY 15 AGREEMENT INCLUDED
PROVISIONS FOR AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA
AND CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING:

- A BILL OF RIGHTS.
- AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND CIVIL SERVICE.

- PROVISIONS FOR OBTAINING DUAL CITIZENSHIP.
- CREATION OF A NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH 100 LEGISLATORS, INCLUDING 72 BLACKS AND 28 WHITES, FOR TEN YEAR PERIOD. SITHOLE SITHOLE COMMENTED THAT "WE DID THIS DESPITE OUR PRINCIPLES OF NON-RACIALISM IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE WHITES TO STAY."

3. SITHOLE TOLD PRESS THAT THERE ARE STILL MANY POINTS LEFT TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, AMONG THEM:

- THE COMPOSITION OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. HE SAID INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TWO PARTS, AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL GROUPING PARTY LEADERS (LATER, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ON SMITH'S FUTURE, HE SAID HE ENVISIONED SMITH AS A MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL) AND A CABINET WITH 50-50 DIVISION OF BLACKS AND WHITES.

- A CEASE FIRE.
- FREEING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.
- DELIMITING ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES.
- REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.
- ELECTION PROCEDURES.

4. SITHOLE SAID THAT HIS PEOPLE "DO NOT WANT INDEPENDENT OFFICIAL USE

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DENCE BEFORE ELECTIONS. WE WANT POWER TO BE TRANSFERRED NOT TO PARTY LEADERS BUT TO THE PEOPLE." IN RESPONSE TO A LATER QUESTION, HE STRESSED THAT FRANCHISE FOR VOTING IN THE ELECTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE EXTENDED TO "ALL OF THE PEOPLE" AND NOT JUST TO THOSE CURRENTLY ON THE ELECTORAL ROLES.

5. GUERRILLAS AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. SITHOLE SAID THAT THE GUERRILLAS ARE "DEEPLY INTERESTED IN A SETTLEMENT" AND THAT "MOST GUERRILLAS ARE VERY PLEASED WITH WHAT WAS AGREED TO YESTERDAY." HE SAID THE FEELINGS OF PATRIOTIC FRONT AND GUERRILLAS "OUTSIDE" ZIMBABWE ARE NOT IMPORTANT; ONLY THE "FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY." HE WAS ASKED ABOUT AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG'S STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT EXCLUSION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT RAISED A DANGER OF CIVIL WAR AND INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATIONS. SITHOLE REPLIED THAT THE "PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM A SETTLEMENT ONLY IF THEY EXCLUDE THEMSELVES FROM IT." HE ADDED THAT THEY HAD NOT SENT ENVOYS TO NKOMO AND MUGABE "BECAUSE THEY HAVE LONG KNOWN THAT THEY CAN BE PARTIES TO THE SETTLEMENT THAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING."

6. IN RESPOSNE TO A QUESTION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE
ARMY DUURING THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, SITHOLE REPLIED THAT
"OUR AIM IS TO BRING ABOUT THE INTEGRATION OF THE
GUERRILLAS AND THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES INTO A
SINGLE ARMY WHICH WOULD OWE ALLEGIANCE TO THE NATION." IF
SOME GUERRILLAS WANT TO KEEP FIGHTING, "WE HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT THEM AT THE RISK OF OUR LIVES."

7. ASKED ABOUT EXISTING UN SANCTIONS, SITHOLE REPLIED
THAT SANCTIONS QUESTION WAS A MATTER TO BE RAISED
WITH THE UK AND THE UN "AFTER THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS
ESTABLISHED."

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8. ASKED ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. AND U.K.
REGARDING THE FEBRUARY 15 AGREEMENT. SITHOLE SAID HE

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WOULD BE SEEING FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN FEBRUARY 20
TO GIVE HIM DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT AND "TO GET
CLARIFICATION OF BRITISH ATTITUDE ON THE PRESENT SITUATION.

9. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES TOLD US THAT
SITHOLE WOULD MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET
THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 17. CHAMBERS

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